

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00117 210938Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /062 W
-----099366 211518Z /15

R 210805Z JAN 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5532
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0117

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, IZ
SUBJECT: RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAQI REGIME AND
SHIA MUSLIMS

REF: 77 BAGHDAD 2208 (NOTAL)

1. IRAQI SOURCE WHO HAS HAD RECENT TALKS WITH SHIA
RELIGIOUS LEADERS REPORTS THAT PREPARATIONS FOR COMMEMORATION
OF THE ARBA'IN, A MAJOR DAY OF MOURNING ON SHIA RELIGIOUS
CALENDAR, ARE PROCEEDING IN NON-CONFRONTATIONAL ATMOSPHERE.
IN CURRENT ISLAMIC YEAR, THE ARBA'IN FALLS ON JANUARY 29.
REGIME WILL PERMIT PUBLIC SELF-FLAGELLATION AT MOSQUES
OF IMAM HUSSEIN IN KERBALA AND IMAM ALI IN NAJAF WITHIN
MUTUALLY AGREED LIMITS OF BEHAVIOR. THIS IS SEEMINGLY
PART OF COMPROMISE WHICH INCLUDED NO PUBLIC SELF-
FLAGELLATION BY MOURNERS ON DECEMBER 19, THE
ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARTYRDOM OF THE PROPHET HUSSEIN
AND THE BEGINNING OF THE 40-DAY MOURNING PERIOD.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00117 210938Z

RELIGIOUS LEADERS PREDICT NO SECURITY PROBLEMS WILL
RESULT ON THE ARBA'IN.

2. USINT OFFICER WHO VISITED KERBALA ON JAN 16 FOUND
CITY SUBDUED, IN KEEPING WITH OFFICIAL MOURNING
PERIOD, WITH ROUGHLY 3 OUT OF 4 SHOPS
CLOSED. ACTIVITY WAS CENTERED AT MOSQUES OF HUSSEIN

AND ABBAS WHERE CROWDS IN ADJACENT STREETS LISTENED ATTENTIVELY TO SERMONS CARRIED BY LOUDSPEAKERS. SEVERAL ITINERANT PREACHERS WERE ALSO HOLDING FORTH OUTSIDE MOSQUE PRECINCTS. MANY POLICE WERE IN MOSQUE AREAS BUT NO MILITARY PRESENCE NOTED IN CITY OR APPROACHES. ATMOSPHERE ON THIS MONDAY MORNING WAS MORE WHAT ONE WOULD FIND ON FRIDAY DURING THE NORMAL PART OF THE YEAR.

3. COMMENT: FOLLOWING SADDAM HUSSEIN'S INITIATIVE IN SHOWING PUBLIC RESPECT FOR SHIA SENSITIVITIES (REFTEL), BOTH REGIME AND SHIA LEADERS SEEM TO BE TRYING TO DOUSE ANY EMBERS OF CONFLICT. DEPT WILL RECALL THAT MAJOR CLASH DEVELOPED LAST YEAR BETWEEN SHIA MARCHERS AND AUTHORITIES. LEADERS OF BOTH SIDES WANT TO AVOID A REPETITION, ALTHOUGH SHIA RELIGIOUS EXTREMISTS AND BAATH PARTY SECULARIST IDEOLOGUES MIGHT SEEK ANOTHER SHOWDOWN IF LEFT TO THEIR OWN DEVICES. ABILITY TO KEEP PEACE ON THE ARBA'IN WILL BE A MAJOR TEST FOR SADDAM HUSSEIN'S POLICY OF PRAGMATIC ACCOMMODATION TO RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES OF SHIA MAJORITY.
PECK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BAGHDA00117
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780032-1225
Format: TEL
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780137/aaaabffi.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 000f25e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BAGHDAD 2208
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3735482
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAQI REGIME AND SHIA MUSLIMS
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, IZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/000f25e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014